



Michigan's

Messenger

The Newsletter of the Department of Michigan – Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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Summer, 2012

John R. Mann, Editor Emeritus



Richard C. Danes, Editor

Recipient of the Marshall Hope Award for Best Department Newsletter of the Order 2002, 2007, 2011

- IN THIS ISSUE**
- G. O. #3, 4, 5**
- Officer's Reports**
- Taps**
- National Awards**
- Ryan Headstone Ceremony**
- Camp News**
- Antietam**
- 14th Michigan Infantry**

Commander's Comments

By Paul D. Arnold, PCC, DC

Greetings, Department of Michigan Brothers and Camps:

I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer. Since the last edition of Michigan's Messenger, I have attended a number of Camp meetings and Camp sponsored events. I would like to thank all of you for your efforts and congratulate you on "**Keeping Green the Memory**" of our ancestors, and conducting the important work of the order.

We have had some exciting things occur this summer as well as some tragedies. I would like to offer my condolences to Camps and Families who have lost loved ones and camp brothers since the last edition of Michigan's Messenger. In particular, I would like to offer my condolences to the sisters of the Dept of Michigan DUVCW and the ASUVCW. In July, Sandra Longpre, Department of Michigan President of the DUVCW and member of the Auxiliary, her husband, and two grand children were tragically killed in an auto accident. Sister Longpre was a driving force in the state leadership of the DUVCW. She and her family will be missed by us all.....

In July, the Department of Michigan-SUVCW, set up a table display at Civil War Days, at Historic Fort Wayne in Detroit. The temperature for both days that weekend hovered somewhere near the surface of the sun. I would like to thank all that participated and tolerated the oppressive heat, to make the event a success.

During the weekend of August 11th and 12th, the National Encampment was held in Los Angeles California, I wanted to take some time to update you on information regarding it. **I would like to congratulate our Past Department Commander, Donald W. Shaw in regards to being elected to a position on the National Organization, Council of Administration.** We all know what a great job he did as Michigan Department Commander. I am sure he will take the same skills and energy that he displayed and make a positive impact as he begins his service at the national level. Congratulations Don.....

Continued from page 1

The following brothers were elected to positions at the National Level of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Perley Mellor - (Dept of Mass)- **Commander in Chief**
Ken Freshley (Dept of Ohio) - **Senior Vice Commander in Chief**
Tad Campbell (Dept of California) - **Junior Vice Commander in Chief**
Steve Hammond (Dept of the Chesapeake) - **National Council of Administration**
Donald W. Shaw (Dept of Michigan) - **National Council of Administration**

The following Officers were re-elected or are in the middle of their term.

Eugene Motoroff (Dept of the Chesapeake) - **National Secretary.**
Richard Orr (Dept of Penn) - **National Treasurer**
Danny Wheeler (Dept of New York) - **National Quartermaster**
Bob Petrovic (Dept of Missouri) - **Council of Administration**
Bill Vieira (Dept of Rhode Island) - **Council of Administration**
Don Martin (Dept of Ohio) - **Council of Administration**

Leo Kennedy (Dept of Rhode Island) - **National Counselor**

I am excited to announce that **The Department of Michigan and Department of Michigan Brother received the following National Awards.**

Horace Greeley Award - (Most Outstanding Department Website).....

Congratulations to all those involved for once again being a repeat winner of this prestigious award for the Best Department Website in the Order.

National Meritorious Service Award - Awarded to (Paul Nelson) from the Albert & James Lyons, Camp #266 in the U. P. In recognition of exceptional service in upholding the mission and objectives of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Congratulations, Paul...

Over the weekend of August 25th & 26th the Department of Michigan set up a table display at the Jackson Civil War Muster. We had a great turnout this year of brothers that visited, and helped man the display table. It was a great success and multiple referrals were sent out to Camps in regards to potential new members.

Planning and work regarding the future SUVCW, Training Video is progressing nicely and we hope to begin filming segments soon.

(Just a reminder of some up coming State and National events of interest to members of the SUVCW).

On **Saturday, November 3rd, 2012** the Department will be participating in the **Detroit Veterans Day Parade**. Once again members have an opportunity to spend the night at Historic Fort Wayne in the Civil War barracks. It's always an enjoyable time fellowshiping with your fraternal brothers the night before the parade. PDC Don Shaw is looking into arrangements for brothers seeking more modern accommodations. at a nearby hotel. (Information will be sent out in the near future). **Shortly after the parade, participating Camps will proceed to the the Detroit G.A.R. Hall**, which is in the process of a full historic restoration to bring it back to its original grandeur. There will be a special flag raising ceremony to commemorate the beginning of the restoration and to honor the GAR members that called the hall their home

Continued on page 3

2010-2011

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Gary Granger, PCC

Color Bearer

Edgar Dowd

Counselor

James Pahl, PCinC

Guard

Dale Aurand

Eagle Scout Coordinator

Jerry A. Olson, PCC

Signals Officer

William Morris

Messenger Editor

Rick Danes, CC

Historian

Matt Adair

Guide

Chris Cox

Graves Registration

Rick Danes, CC

GAR Records

Gary Gibson, PDC

Civil War Memorials

Douglas R. Armstrong, PCC

Chief of Staff

William Morris

Camp At Large Coordinator

L. Dean Lamphere

Continued from page 2

Saturday October 6th marks the date for the **Central Region Association of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic** meeting in Springfield Illinois. For more information contact: PDC Don Shaw at p31713@aol.com.

Saturday, November 17th, 2012, mark your calendars for **Remembrance Day** in Gettysburg, PA.

I am now beginning to schedule dates for Installation of Camp Officers.

Please send me an email to confirm your Installation Meeting Date. (If you have asked earlier in the year please recontact me to schedule the date). Requests will be honored in the order they come in, in regards to duplicate Installation dates.

Department Orders #3  Series 2012 – 2013
 By Paul D. Arnold, PCC, DC, Commander
 Headquarters, Lansing, MI
 July 2, 2012

Department of Michigan Brothers and Camps:

It is with great sadness that I bring you the following information regarding a tragedy affecting our Department.

Sandra Longpre, current sitting President of the Department of Michigan, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861 - 1865, was killed in an automobile accident on Friday, June 29th, 2012 in Indiana. Sandra was also a member of the Nash-Hodges Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Also killed was her husband Ron, and two grandchildren. A third grandchild is listed in critical condition.

As of this writing additional information regarding funeral services has not been released.

I am ordering that Membership Badges, and Camp Charters be draped in black until August 2, 2012 in remembrance of Department of Michigan President, Sandra Longpre and her service to the Department of Michigan, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861 – 1865, the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic.

/s/
 By Paul D. Arnold, PCC
 Department Commander
 Department of Michigan
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest: /s/
 Dennie E. Fike
 Department Secretary
 Department of Michigan
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Editor's Note: I have included all officer's and Camp reports in this volume. Because of the wonderful interest in providing articles to publish, not all items that were sent could be printed. Expect a "special edition" of the Messenger to be out within the next few months that will publish all of the articles that have been held for space to open up.

Thank you for your interest. RD

Department Orders #4



Series 2012 – 2013

By Paul D. Arnold, PCC, DC, Commander

Headquarters, Lansing, MI

July 16, 2012

The 131st SUVCW National Encampment is coming up August 9th - 11th 2012 in Los Angeles California. It will be held at the Los Angeles, Airport Marriott Hotel. Hotel registration information is available at the SUVCW National Website www.suvcw.org

If you are planning on attending the National Encampment and have not contacted Department Secretary Dennis Fyke suvcw-secretary@comcast.net (I am requesting that you do so at this time).

Brother Fyke is assembling a master list of which credential cards will be issued from. Please contact him as soon as possible to let him know you will be attending. This list will be utilized once we arrive at the encampment hotel. (*If you are a National officer or getting your credentials through the National Organization please still contact Brother Fyke*).

Also a reminder that you will need a current membership card along with your credential card to register at the Encampment,

If you are planning on attending and need a roommate, please contact Department Junior Vice commander Dale Aurand at daurand321@yahoo.com he will try to connect brothers looking for roommate's to try to keep expenses down.

Deadline Dates: National Encampment:

(Information & Registration Forms) are available on the National Website www.suvcw.org

Encampment Pre Reg: – Prior to - August 3, 2012

Banquet Registration: - Prior to - July 31, 2012

SVR Breakfast Reg: - Prior to - July 31, 2012

Tour Registration: - Prior to - July 31, 2012

/s/

By Paul D. Arnold, PCC
Department Commander
Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest: /s/

Dennie E. Fike
Department Secretary
Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

**Future Michigan's Messenger Publications
Submittal Dates and Publication Dates**

Spring - March 1 for a March 15 Publication

Summer – June 1 for a June 15 Publication

Fall – September 1 for a September 15 Publication

Winter – December 1 for a December 15 Publication

Send all articles to Rick Danes, Editor, preferably at mimessrd@aol.com or to 2612 Burns Street, Dearborn, Michigan 48124-3204

ALL PUBLICATIONS WILL BE MADE ON TIME

Department Orders # 5



Series 2012 – 2013

By Paul D. Arnold, PCC, DC, Commander

Headquarters, Lansing, MI

September 15th, 2012

Greetings Department of Michigan Brothers and Camps:

Appointment, Assistant Department Chaplain:

In a correspondence sent out shortly after this years Department Encampment. Long time Department of Michigan Chaplain William McAfee, indicated that he would be stepping down from his position at the end of his present term. His hopes were to be able to select and devote time, to mentor an assistant in regards to the responsibilities of the position.

Chaplain McAfee sent out an email requesting interested brothers to submit their names/ qualifications to him for review.

It is my pleasure to announce the appointment of **Rev Charles ("Charlie") Buckhahn** to the position of Assistant Department of Michigan Chaplain, to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Brother Buckhahn was born in Elgin Illinois. He is a 1978 graduate of Concordia Seminary in St Louis MO. He is Associate Pastor at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Saginaw Michigan, and has served his entire ministry in Michigan. He is married with two children. Brother Buckhahn is currently serving as Camp Chaplain to the US Grant Camp # 67 in Bay City. We are looking forward to Rev/Brother Buckhahn serving our membership and welcome him to his new position.

Remembrance Day will be held in Gettysburg PA on **November 17th, 2012**. The Department of Michigan will be meeting at the Seventh Michigan Infantry Monument for this years commemoration. The monument is located on Cemetery Ridge south of the crop of trees. More information will be forthcoming in the form of a Department Correspondence as the date approaches.

The Detroit Veterans Day Parade & Detroit GAR Hall Flag Raising will be held on Saturday November 3rd, 2012. As in the past, members will have an opportunity to stay over night in the barracks at Historic Fort Wayne on the night of Friday, November 2nd. It is a great opportunity to spend some time at this storied location that was used as a troop induction center from the Civil War up through the Vietnam War. Come spend some fraternal time with brothers from around the state to share stories of your ancestors. In the past, candle light and fort history tours have been provided. A more detailed set of instructions will be sent out in the near future addressing what to bring if staying at the fort, uniform of the day, staging location etc.

We will be caravanning from Historic Fort Wayne to the parade staging area.

If you plan on caravanning, **we are asking that you be at the Fort by 7am the morning of the parade.**

Parade staging begins at 8am at (Woodward & Charlotte) and the parade steps off at 10am.

(Uniform of the Day and other detailed instructions will be sent out in the next several weeks).

We are attempting to locate a suitable Hotel in the area for Brothers not wanting to stay at Historic Fort Wayne. If one is located we will share that information with you.

Following the parade we are asking that Camps proceed to the Detroit-GAR Hall for a special Flag Raising Ceremony to commemorate the beginning of the restoration of this historic structure. Uniforms and Camp colors are requested at this ceremony.

Camp Officer Installations

It is getting to be that time of year again. I am now taking requests ref Camp Officer Installation dates. (These will be honored based on the date the requests are received). **If you have asked in the past, please submit a new request.** I will do my best to make as many as I can. Please submit them under the heading **(Camp Officer Installation)** to hockeyboy121@sbcglobal.net

Continued on Page 6

Continued from Page 5

Either myself or a member of your department leadership will make every effort to attend. Please do not wait until the last minute to avoid potential conflicts.

/s/
By Paul D. Arnold, PCC
Department Commander
Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest: /s/
Dennie E. Fike
Department Secretary
Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Senior Vice Commander's Quips

By Paul Davis

The Michigan Delegation to the National Encampment included Brothers Jim Pahl, Dave Arnold, Paul Davis, Dale Aurand, Dean Lamphere, Robert May and Don Shaw. We were a small but very effective delegation via our alliances with delegations from other Camps.

Commander Arnold's report will address many of the details of the National Encampment so we will not address those topics here.

I would, however, like to take the opportunity to thank and express my gratitude to all of our Brothers involved with the Department website as Michigan was once again awarded the **Horace Greeley Award** for the Most Outstanding Department Website.

Brother Paul Nelson from the Albert & James Lyons, Camp 266, was awarded a **National Meritorious Service Award**. Congratulations to Paul and thank you for your service to the Department and the Order.

And congratulations are in order for Don Shaw on his election to the National Council of Administration.

During the summer months, the Department Senior Vice Commander has taken part in support of various Camps in their performance of ceremonies and rituals including remembrances and Headstone Rededication services. Our Department is very active in keeping green the memory of our ancestors and providing these services to family members who have been most complementary and pleased with our efforts.

The training project for Camp Guards, proper display of the colors and proper performance of protocol for rituals is well underway with videotaping anticipated for October.

Finally, the Senior Vice Commander continues in his efforts to improve our image and branding via media contacts and public relations activities. This must be an on-going effort as members of the media often change roles. We have been very fortunate to form relationships that offer us both print as well as television coverage for the work of the Order. In addition we are working with media contacts to make them aware of who we are, what we do, and that we are a ready and willing resource for them.

Junior Vice Commander's Corner

By Dale Aurand

As your Dept. Jr. Vice-Commander my job description includes promoting membership. At the National Encampment awards were given to those Departments/ Members that increased their membership. Some of the Departments have the advantage because of their location. Big sesquicentennial events are taking place in their "backyard", which gives them the opportunity for recruitment. I am pleased that the National membership is increasing,

I offer congratulations to other Departments and members for their accomplishments. It would be nice to see Michigan grow in membership and receive several "National Aides" awards at the Milwaukee National Encampment in 2013.

The Department has distributed over 5,000 of the new SUVCW brochures. These are invaluable aids for getting the word out and will remain available. If I can be of assistance please contact me.

Patriotic Instructor's Thoughts - Patriotism Begins at Home

By Gary A. Granger, PCC

While out and about these next few weeks, take the time to notice the United States Flags flying on the public buildings, businesses, homes and apartments in your area.

Although many people display flags daily there are several days that are considered official flag flying dates. But did you know that on some dates flags should fly at half-staff?

What follows is just a short list of the official flag flying days that remain for 2012.

October 10 Columbus Day (honors Columbus first voyage to America)

November 6 Election Day

November 12 Veterans' Day (Armistice Day celebrating the end of WW1)

November 22 Thanksgiving Day

December 7 Pearl Harbor Day (bombing of Pearl Harbor marking the beginning of USA entrance into WW2) -- flags should fly at half staff

December 25 Christmas Day

Along with the dates/days just mentioned the following are days that flags should be flown at half-staff:

May 15 Peace Officers' Memorial Day

Traditional Memorial Day – flags should fly at half-staff until noon, then at full staff

July 27 Korean War Veterans' Day

There are also days when the flag should be flown depending on what state you reside. These dates are tied to when the state received statehood or for other important events. In Michigan flags are to fly on the official flag flying dates many of us are familiar with but we also are to fly the flag on January 26 to annually commemorate the date the state achieved statehood. I won't go into every date that the flags should be officially flown – most of the dates are noted on wall calendars and are readily available through a variety of internet sources.

As we approach Veteran's Day, I just want to remind everyone that there is often one flag flying day that is overlooked by the calendar companies – the Nov. 17 Remembrance Day. This date is an annual observance sponsored by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. It is held in conjunction with the Gettysburg Address anniversary.

Remembrance Day activities are centered on Gettysburg but marked by SUCVW groups everywhere and activities include a parade and ceremonies. This year's parade begins at 1:00 p.m. The parade will form at 12:00 noon on Lefever Street and move at 1:00 p.m. sharp. The route of the parade will be as follows: exiting Lefever Street onto East Confederate Avenue and turning west onto East Middle Street; at Baltimore Street the parade will turn south and then veer southwest onto Steinwehr Avenue where it will terminate at the National Park. And, to confuse things further, did you know that the Nov. 11 Veteran's Day is also referred to as Remembrance Day (also known as Poppy Day or Armistice Day) in several countries around the world? Originally Nov. 11 was designated as a memorial day – a day of remembrance -- that marked the end of World War I (to remember the members of their armed forces who have died in the line of duty). In other countries Nov. 11 is more like the United States Memorial Day, honoring those who died in the line of duty. Here in the United States Veterans Day honors living veterans and is a day set aside to say "thank you" to all veterans. In the U.S., Memorial Day is the day set aside to remember those who have died in service to the nation. And, do you know why Nov. 11 was designated as Remembrance Day in so many countries? It is the date that recalls the end of hostilities of World War I on Nov. 11, 1918. Hostilities formally ended "at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month," in accordance with the Armistice signed by representatives of Germany and the Entente that morning. "At the 11th hour" refers to the *passing* of the 11th hour, or 11:00 a.m.), however, World War I officially ended with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on June 28, 1919.

Of note, the red poppy has become "a familiar emblem of remembrance due to the poem "In Flanders Fields." Red poppies bloomed across some of the worst battlefields of Flanders, France in World War I, their brilliant red color an appropriate symbol for the blood spilled in the war.

And, finally, in the United States Veterans Day is commemorated November 11 as both a federal and state holiday in all states. Prior to 1954 Nov. 11 was known as Armistice Day and after the end of the Korean War in 1954 the name Veterans Day was established on Nov. 11 to honor all veterans.

Department Memorials and Monuments Committee

Bruce B. Butgereit, PDC, Department Officer

By the time you read this, the Department Civil War Memorials Page should be updated with new information and instructions. One of the highlights will be a new handbook for Camp CW Memorials Officers – you can choose to download it for printing at your favorite print shop or you can view it online.

Camp Commanders and Memorials Officers will soon receive a short questionnaire intended to help the Memorials Committee help you.

One important item for us to consider as a Department is the fact that we really need to start assessing or reassessing our memorials. The National CW Memorials Officer has decided that if a Department is not posting the required information about their memorials, he will not link our memorials webpage to the national website. Also on our Department Memorials page is the National Encampment report from National Memorials Officer Brother Walter Busch of Missouri. In it he provides his vision of our program which I support.

I would love to hear from each Camp as to your progress in compiling the database of memorials within your geographic boundaries. Although I have not previously asked for such communication, I want to thank Brother Gerald Grieve of Camp 14 for sending me his monthly Camp report.

Richmond, Kentucky, was the site on **July 21, 2012** of the dedication of a new State of Michigan Historical marker on the grounds of the Battle of Richmond. Working in partnership to make this event a reality was the Michigan Historical Commission, the Battle of Richmond Association, the Madison County Historic Properties, and the Abraham Lincoln Civil War Roundtable of Michigan. Assisting in the ceremony was the Sgt. Elijah P. Marris Camp No. 5, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Department of Kentucky.

Battery F of the **1st Michigan Light Artillery** was organized in Detroit and Coldwater and **Battery G** was organized in Kalamazoo.

Please direct any questions, concerns, or ideas to me at: Bruce B. Butgereit civil-war@comcast.net.

Department Graves Registration Committee

by Rick Danes, Department Officer

Your Department Graves Registration Committee met on September 8 at the Capitol Area Library in Lansing. Those attending were, Dave Arnold DC, Chris Czopek Gary Copenhaver from Camp 17, Dick Hutchins Camp 120, Bill Lowe and Charles Waters Camp 7, Alan Teelander of Camp 1, and Tom Bruce, Camp 20. At that time I reported that the current database contains 63,976 records, including 60,582 Civil War and 3,394 other war entries.

I also want to recognize those who have gone out of their way to turn in researched records in the last quarter – Dick Williams, Chuck Horthy, Gary Copenhaver, Alan Teelander and Mike Christiaens.

Our last meeting for 2012 will be on December 8. I hope that even if you cannot attend our quarterly meetings, you and your Camps are starting or continuing the work started by our forefathers in documenting the last resting places of the heroes of the War of the Rebellion 1861 - 1865.

What better way to honor them and bring attention to the work of the Order!

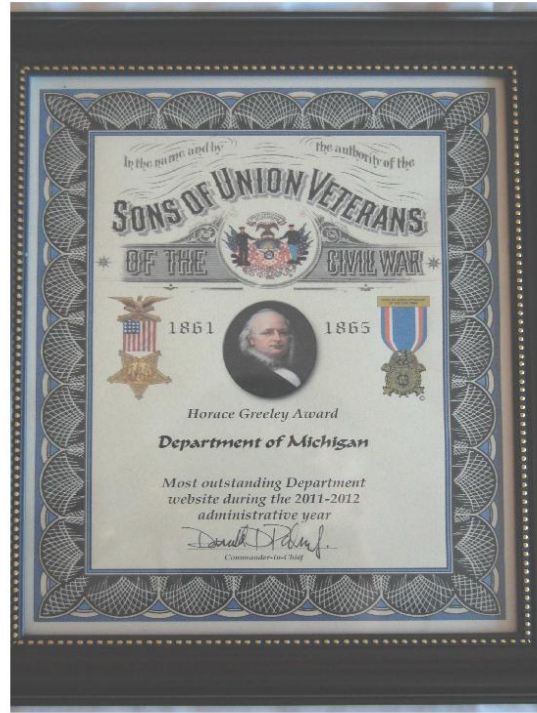
Stay Safe!!



Awards Received at the National Encampment



**To Brother Paul Nelson
for Meritorious Service to the Order**



**To the Department for the Best Website,
the Horace Greeley Award**

The Draft

In 1862, a Colonel in the 17th Infantry wrote to his sister: “The fates seem to be against this Army of the Potomac. We have tried strategy under McClellan, dash under Pope, bull dog fighting under Burnside and failed with all.” The number of volunteers dwindled, so early in 1863 a draft act was passed to assist counties having difficulties in filling their quotas. This act really stimulated volunteering again, and very few men were drafted. The draft was not popular in Michigan. The men felt that being drafted “robbed them of their patriotism and branded them as unwilling defenders of the nation.” A few, however were reluctant to enter the service for any reason whatsoever, feigning sickness or urgent home duties to avoid going. These and other draftees would hire or pay for substitutes.

From Michigan Men in the Civil War, Ida C. Brown, 1959

Michigan Day at Antietam

Submitted by Bruce B. Butgereit, PDC, Commander, Michigan Commandery, MOLLUS

26 August 2012

Greetings:

Historically, we've been here before. History often repeats itself and our presence here today is not the first time men from Michigan have stood on these hallowed grounds. In 1861, men from all over Michigan volunteered to answer President Abraham Lincoln's call for troops. Some of those men would eventually fight and die here on the Battlefield of Antietam in 1862.

Fast forward to 2009 when the Michigan Historical Commission asked for public input to help them implement the plans of the Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee. Without any designated funds but with an immense desire to share the history of Michigan in the Civil War, men and women from across the state once again volunteered to answer the call.



We are known as the Civil War History Partners and include the following organizations: The Michigan Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States; the Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War; iMichigan Productions; the Historic Fort Wayne Coalition; and History Remembered, Inc.

Comprising the Partners are over 1,000 Civil War reenactors and living history historians; Civil War patriotic and hereditary organizations; Civil War scholars and educators, Civil War Roundtables; libraries, historical societies, and genealogical societies; museums; and numerous Michigan communities that sponsor special historical programs related to the Civil War. Our role is to encourage the creation of events and to facilitate the communication of such events on our website and through a monthly email circular that goes out to over 800 recipients.

Almost immediately after the Civil War ended, combatants of both the North and South began to put their experiences to paper. They formed organizations that allowed them to continue the esprit de corps they had experienced serving side by side on the battlefield. Regimental histories were written and petitions were made in nearly every community calling for a public monument or memorial.

The reasons behind this were quite simple – they understood the importance of the events of 1861-1865 and they wanted future generations to remember their service and sacrifice while wearing the uniform of Blue or Gray.

Several examples of how much faith the soldiers placed in us can be found in the following: At the 1885 dedication of the Kent County Soldiers Monument and Fountain in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Major Charles W. Watkins of the 10th Michigan Cavalry stated, "...that so long as grass grows and water runs, the deeds of the soldiers will be kept fresh and green in the hearts of the people." And at the 1904 dedication of the Michigan monument at Andersonville Prison, General James H. Kidd of the 6th Michigan Cavalry said, "It is a far cry from Michigan to Georgia, but Michigan will not forget or cease to honor the men who filled the ranks of her volunteers..."

Our presence here today proves Michigan remembers the Civil War and honors the wishes of those no longer with us.

In closing, today's program and ceremony have an additional meaning for me. It was forty-four years ago that my grandfather, Walter E. Norris brought me to Antietam. We spent most of the day walking this battlefield and it seemed like he made me read every marker and interpretive sign. And what nine-year-old boy wouldn't listen to a story about something called "Bloody Lane?"

[Continued on Page 11](#)

Continued from Page 10

At the end of the day, my grandfather told me the Civil War was important and something I should study. From that time on my favorite subject has been the Civil War and since 1975, like my grandfather, I've shared my knowledge of the Civil War with others through living history presentations. In the years that followed, I kept him informed of my continued interest and accomplishments. A few years before he passed away from Alzheimer's, he gave me his collection of Civil War books and photos and shook my hand and said thank you for listening to me.

Walking the battlefield earlier today and sharing with you now has allowed me to remember my grandfather and to remember why the Civil War was important.

The text above was the comments I made at the Michigan at Antietam Day, Sunday, August 26, 2012 as a representative of the Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial History Partners.

The event was created through the efforts of the Michigan Historical Commission, most notably Mr. Jack Dempsey and Mr. Brian Egan, and the National Park Service at the Antietam National Battlefield. Serving in a capacity representative of our name, the History Partners served an important role in the special ceremony to honor men from Michigan.

Sunday the 26th dawned with the threat of rain as we gathered in the Visitor Center. We were greeted by Park Ranger Mr. Mannie Gentile, formerly of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Experiencing intermittent periods of rain and overcast skies, Mannie took us to the famous Cornfield followed by the Sunken Road or "Bloody Lane" and ending at Burnside's Bridge.

After lunch the tour picked up again at the Pry House, General George B. McClellan's headquarters, where he would have communicated with Michigan's General Israel B. Richardson; General Orlando Wilcox, and then Captain George A. Custer. Brian Egan of the MHC gave an excellent presentation on First Lt. John A. Clark of the 7th Michigan; killed at Antietam.

The special ceremony honoring Michigan was to have taken place in the cemetery but the heavy rains forced moving the event back to the Visitors Center.

And then, as if some Michigan men who wore the Blue at Antietam wanted to watch our program, the skies cleared and a brilliant sun shown down.

(See the September Civil War Circular for full-size images of the program and more photos.)



Continued on Page 12

Continued from Page 11



Left to right; top to bottom: Welcome at Visitors Center; the Cornfield where the 7th Michigan suffered great losses; the Cornfield; Sunken Road; Sunken Road; and Burnside's Bridge where the 8th and 17th Michigan were engaged. The 17th had just days earlier earned the nickname of the Stonewall Regiment for their bravery at South Mountain. Participants in uniform and/or period attire included:

Continued on Page 13

Continued from Page 12

2nd Military District SVR, SUVCW

Mark Day (also MOLLUS); Michael Paquette; Eric Spregle; Kevin Martin (also MOLLUS); Scott Stephens; John Dillon; Doak Marasco; Daniel Sinal; and Bugler Harry (Chip) Dillon III

Third Military District SVR, SUVCW

Dean Lamphere (Commanding Color Guard); Lloyd Lamphere; Len McInerney; and Jonathan McInerney

MOLLUS/SUVCW

Keith Harrison (Commanding Military Firing Unit); Bruce Butgereit; and Gary Gibson

Historic Fort Wayne Coalition

Tom Berlucci; TJ Berlucci; and Judy Berlucci

Speakers

Jody Egan, *Master of Ceremonies*

Rev. John Schildt, *Historian Washington County, Maryland*

Susan Trail, *Superintendent, Antietam National Battlefield*

Jack Dempsey, *President, Michigan Historical Commission*

Brigadier General Michael A. Stone, *Asst. Adj. General, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Michigan*

David Duncan, *Director of Membership and Development, Civil War Trust*

Bruce Butgereit, *Commander, Michigan Commandery, (MOLLUS)*

Kimberly S. Johnson, *Vice-President Michigan Historical Commission*

Barbara Day, *President of the Department of the Chesapeake Auxiliary*

Dominique Paquette, daughter of Michael Paquette, *Echo-Bugler*

News About Headstone Orders

Submitted by Rick Danes, Department GRO

By now, most of you will have heard that the old rules for ordering headstones for veterans have been thrown out the window, and new rules introduced that will severely impact our work.

Previously, a sexton or cemetery manager could verify that a grave was unmarked and needed a headstone, the VA accepting their word that this was true. In the absence of a sexton or a manager, an SUVCW member, working with the Department Officer could order a headstone, providing a strict list of documentation.

This is no longer true – **the only person that can sign the application is a next-of-kin (NOK) or their assignee.** Even the NOK has to provide a “family tree”, showing the relationship between the soldier and the applicant.

While reading the January 2012 Civil War News, I came across an article concerning soldiers graves that are marked with a “Unknown or Unknown Soldier” federal headstone. The author notes that he had been researching Civil War soldiers at Grafton National Cemetery in West Virginia for seven years. He has identified 15 previously unknown men. He submitted his documentation to the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) in Washington D.C., and after a year they notified him that they agreed and accepted all except for one submittal – but wait!

The NCA then notified him that even though they agreed with his findings, the remains of all soldiers who were buried as Unknown belonged to the U. S. Army, and the Army is listed as NOK for them! This person contacted the Army, and was told that the final determination was done by DNA testing (that means that NOK will be needed to determine DNA), that Civil War Soldiers were a low priority, and that their current focus is on WWII vets.

That's all of the good news for today!!

TAPS

By William B. M^cAfee, PCC, Chaplain Department of Michigan

I regret to inform you of the death of two brothers in the Michigan SUVCW. They are:

Brother Milo "Chuck" Langworthy, 721 Harris St., Lansing, MI 48906, passed away July 24, 2012 in Lansing, age 90. He was born February 7, 1922, in Alma, MI. Chuck was a veteran of the U.S. Army in WW II, and worked as a machinist at the John Bean Company, retiring in 1971. He was a founding member of the Lansing Muzzle Loading Gun Club. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary. Surviving are: 3 children, 4 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. A memorial service was held Saturday, July 28, 2012, in East Lansing. Arrangements were by the Estes-Leadley Greater Lansing Chapel. Chuck was a member of Lansing/Sunfield - Curtenius Guard Camp No. 17 by virtue of his Great Grandfather, PVT Barnard Henry Swope, Co. I, 6th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, his *Great Great Grandfather*, PVT Calvin B. Fisher, Co. H, 11th Michigan Volunteer Infantry and his *Great Great Great Grandfather* PVT Smith Rhodes, Co. I, 9th Michigan Volunteer Infantry. He served in various camp offices including *Color Bearer*, *Patriotic Instructor*, and *Council Member*. In 1992, he received the Camp #17 Samuel Grinnell Award.

OBIT – LANGWORTHY, M. "Chuck" Brother Milo "Chuck" Langworthy, 721 Harris St., Lansing, MI 48906, passed away July 24, 2012 in Lansing, age 90. He was born February 7, 1922, in Alma, MI. Milo was a veteran of the U.S. Army in WW II, and worked as a machinist at the John Bean Company, retiring in 1971. He was a founding member of the Lansing Muzzle Loading Gun Club. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary. Surviving are: 3 children, 4 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. A memorial service was held Saturday, July 28, 2012, in East Lansing. Arrangements were by the Estes-Leadley Greater Lansing Chapel. Chuck was a member of Lansing/Sunfield - Curtenius Guard Camp No. 17 by virtue of his Great Grandfather, PVT Barnard Henry Swope, Co. I, 6th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, his *Great Great Grandfather*, PVT Calvin B. Fisher, Co. H, 11th Michigan Volunteer Infantry and his *Great Great Great Grandfather* PVT Smith Rhodes, Co. I, 9th Michigan Volunteer Infantry. He served in various camp offices including *Color Bearer*, *Patriotic Instructor*, and *Council Member*. In 1992, he received the Camp #17 Samuel Grinnell Award.

Brother Stanley R. Heldreth, a member of Michigan's Gen, Benj. Pritchard Camp No. 20 in Kalamazoo, died August 15, 2012 Lawton, MI. He was born January 11, 1942, in Normal (McLean Co.), IL. He lived at 1344 Second Street, Schoolcraft, MI 49087, with his wife, Kathryn, who survives.

Brother Heldreth was a member of the SUVCW by virtue of his Great Grandfather, Isaac Heldreth, Co. E, 1st Missouri Engineers. He was a decorated veteran of the Vietnam War, a member of American Legion Post 207 in Portage and a member of the Kalamazoo Antique Auto Restorers Club.

He earned an MBA at MSU and had a career as a CPA. Arrangements were by the Adams Funeral Home, Paw Paw. Share a memory or condolence online at www.adamspawpaw.com. Burial was at Fort Custer National Cemetery, Augusta, MI on August 20 with military honors.

Brother Leroy D. Austin of Albert & James Lyon Camp No. 266 in Michigan's Upper Peninsula died August 22, 2012, in Wallace, MI. Born May 18, 1925 in Sioux Pass, MT, he was a U.S. Navy veteran, member of the VFW and a charter member of Camp No. 266, serving on the Camp Council.

He was a member of the SUVCW by virtue of his Great Uncle, Pvt. Joseph H. Sullivan, 7th Illinois Vol. Infantry. He is survived by his wife and children with the home address of:

N 6377 County Road 577
Wallace, MI 49893.

Interment has taken place at Central Baptist Cemetery, Dagget, MI.

"Serve the Lord with gladness."

God Bless the USA!

General John A. Logan Camp No. 1

Submitted by; Bruce B. Butgereit, Secretary

Only the Lord knows the answer to some of our questions and such is the case involving the recent passing of Sister Brenda Kociemba, President of the Thomas Ryan Chapter No. 2689 of United Daughters of the Confederacy on July 28, 2012. Elsewhere in this issue is a story about the ceremony to honor Confederate soldier Thomas Ryan that Brenda proudly conducted. I had the honor to attend her funeral in Highland, Michigan.

On **Saturday, June 23**, several members of the Camp partnered with History Remembered, Inc. at the Dutton Days event in Dutton, Gaines Twp., Michigan. The event served to introduce our efforts to raise funds for a new Civil War memorial honoring the over 75 men who either served from Gaines Twp. or lived there after the war. The memorial will include a bronze tablet on a boulder and will be placed near a World War II memorial at the fire barn.

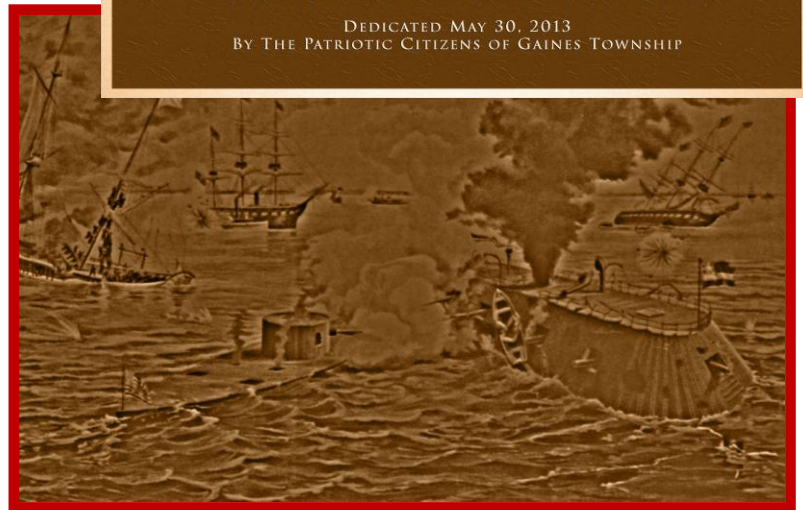
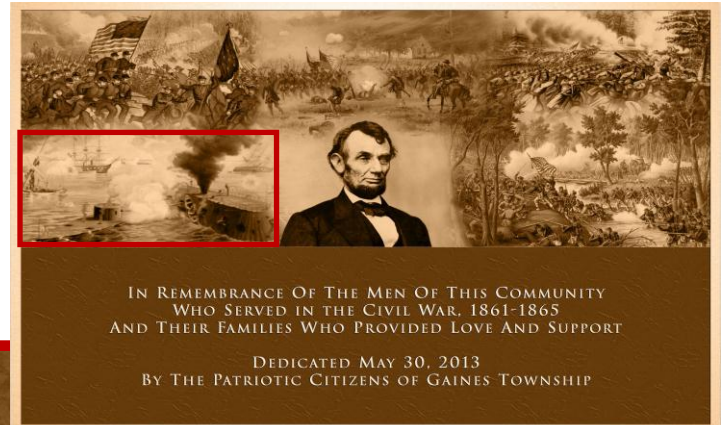
The process is called ImageCast from Matthews International of Pittsburgh, PA. This is the plaque layout and a sample of what the image of the Battle between the Monitor and the Merrimac will look like when cast.

The cost of the 24" high x 36" wide plaque is \$3,773.

Mr. Gary Baar, owner of Cook's (Hot Dogs) Drive-In is committed to honoring the past and after restoring the WW II memorial last year, he asked us to help him make this Civil War memorial a reality.

Sisters Marcia Butgereit and Wenda Fore of the Champlin Corps No. 41, WRC are conducting the research of the men from the area.

July 19 found Camp Commander Bill Truss and Junior member Rylan Vazquez assisting me in a Civil War Day Camp in Lowell, Michigan. Sponsored by the Lowell Historical Society and Museum, we conducted two sessions of the **School of the Soldier**. In between, Sister Jeannine Trybus of Corps 41 and History Remembered, Inc assisted in a **Bedrolls and Bonnets** presentation.



Saturday, July 28 was the annual **Carnival** at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. The Champlin Corps and the Camp offer the residents and family a chance at our Blue and Gray bean bag toss where everyone is a winner. They get to pick out prizes ranging from toys for kids and t-shirts, ball caps, socks, word puzzle books and much more. The Eva Gray Tent No. 2 helps by providing prizes and they operate the snow-cone machine next to our Allied Orders booth. From left to right: Marcia Butgereit, Kim Kolean, Alicia Kolean, David Riches, Jeannine Trybus, Bill Truss, Tim Kolean, and Wenda Fore. I joined in after marching in a parade that morning in Byron Center, Michigan. It is always a great day sharing with the resident veterans.

Continued on Page 16

Continued from Page 15

The Camp continues to work on our **Civil War Memorials database**. After trying for 12 years, we have finally reached an agreement on a design for the new **Veterans Memorial for Byron Township** in Byron Center, Michigan. The focal point will still be the boulder and bronze plaque dedicated by the Woman's Relief Corps in 1928. We are anxiously looking forward to the first meeting of the **Lowell GAR Memorial Cannon Committee** – something that again has been 12 years in the making. In a partnership with the Michigan Commandery of MOLLUS and American Legion Post 459, we have sent off a bronze plaque about Memorial Day to Matthews International for restoration. Their price to restore this piece is exceptionally reasonable. The plaque hangs outside the **American Legion Hall in Grand Rapids**. We could potentially have three memorials to rededicate next Memorial Day.

Death of an Old Friend



Michael J. Yeck

1918 - 2012

Michael J. Yeck, age 93 of Dundee died Thursday August 23, 2012 at his home. Mike was born in Detroit, Michigan on December 13, 1918 the son of Michael and Lena (Fillip) Yeck. He dropped out of high school to work and help in the family business and then took night courses at Cass Tech High School in Detroit. He then joined the United States Army in 1939 serving stateside and in Europe until 1946.. He owned Yeck Manufacturing in Dundee from 1947-1982. He also owned Yeck Antique Firearms in Dundee and established the Dundee Motor Pool Museum in 1994. He served as mayor in the Village of Dundee and is a member of the N.S.S.A. (North South Skirmish Association) and the M.V.P.A. (Military Vehicle Preservation Association). He was proud to show and share his collection and vast knowledge of military vehicles in his museum and participated in military reunions and re-enactments. He transported many of his military vehicles to various reunions and re-enactments by transporting his vehicles to local areas such as Greenfield Village and as far as Normandy, France. He also was instrumental in establishing the Veterans Memorial in Dundee and is a long standing member of the Moore-Lenz-Wakefield VFW Post 6462. He married Arlene Sheets. He is survived by a daughter Katherine (John) Abbott-Yeck of Melbourne, FL; two sons Michael J. Yeck Jr. of Santa Monica, CA and Nicholas Yeck of Saline; son in law John Hand of Hanover, MI; grandchildren Kevin Abbott, Karl Abbott, Matt Hand, Rebecca Grabarczyk, Tammy Yeck and Kenny Yeck; great-grandchildren Meghan Abbott, Katherine Abbott, Victoria Abbott, Dalton Grabarczyk, Carley Grabarczyk, Carmen Yeck, and Farrah Yeck. He was preceded in death by daughter Nancy Hand, grandson Kurt Abbott, his sister Lena Bodin and special friend Betty Schroeder. Friends may call from 10 AM until 11 AM memorial services, Saturday, September 1, 2012 at Cover Funeral Home, 297 Tecumseh Street in Dundee Procession will follow to Maple Grove Cemetery where military services will be conducted by the Dundee Veterans Memorial Group. online condolences may be made at www.coverfuneralhome.com Memorials may be made to St. Joseph Mercy Hospice, Washtenaw Medical Arts Bldg, 3075 Clark Road, Suite 200, Ypsilanti, MI 48197 or the Dundee Moore-Lenz-Wakefield VFW Post 6462, 418 Dunham, Dundee, MI 48131

General Israel B. Richardson Camp 2

Submitted by Bruce Miller, SVC/PCC

Following the service in the SUVCW Rituals and Ceremonies Handbook, the General Richardson Camp 2 dedicated a headstone for a Civil War veteran on July 21. The headstone was for George W. Carey of Pontiac buried in historic Oak Grove Cemetery in Milford. Over 50 family and friends attended the ceremony. Carey was an 18 year old private in the 30th Michigan Infantry. Organized at Detroit for 12 months' service in the State and mustered in January 9, 1865, the 30th was engaged in frontier duty in Michigan along the Detroit and St. Clair Rivers till June, 1865.



The General Israel B. Richardson Camp #2 officially adopted a flag in the state's collection of Civil War battle flags at their meeting on August 30, 2012. The camp partnered with two Hazel Park, Michigan schools to donate over \$1,000 to fund the adoption. The adopted flag is one of the national colors of the 2nd Michigan Infantry whose first Colonel was General Richardson of Pontiac for whom the camp is named.

Richardson was mortally wounded at the battle of Antietam while commanding a division of the 2nd Corps. In 1866, after the close of the Civil War, Michigan regiments returned to the state. In 1866, their most precious mementoes of the war - their regimental flags. As part of the restoration of the Michigan State Capitol, a program was launched on July 2, 1991, to help save nearly 160 fragile, battle-torn Civil War flags that had been displayed for decades in the Capitol rotunda. To date, more than 100 flags have been adopted, providing the project with much needed funds after the close of the Civil War, Michigan regiments returned to the state their most precious mementoes of the war - their regimental flags.

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Camp Commander William Nash (second from right) accepts a Special Tribute Proclamation by the Michigan House of Representatives from Matt VanAcker (second from left), Director of the Save the Flags Project. Beverly Blair (far left) of the Hazel Park Junior High School displays a Certificate of Appreciation from the SUVCW and Yvonne Emlet (far right) of Webster Elementary School holds an image of the battle flag of the 2nd Michigan Infantry adopted by the Israel B. Richardson Camp and the Hazel Park Schools.



Robert Finch Camp 14

July to September 2012

Submitted by Wm. E. Skillman ~ Camp Signals Officer

As of September 1, 2012, Camp 14's roster shows 45 Brothers present. 39 are Members and 6 are Associates. Our next meeting will held on September 8th at the Elks Lodge at 325 Bay Street (at the intersections of Grandview Parkway and Division) in Traverse City. Our next meeting will be held on Saturday, September 8th. The presentation will be: "Mr. Lincoln's Seven Shooter— Spencer Repeaters in the Civil War"

We are pleased to hear from Brother Alan J. Werdehoff, one of our youngest Camp members. After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the United States Air Force. While going through basic training, Alan volunteered to do restoration work at City Point, Petersburg Virginia National Battlefield. Alan is currently attending the Air School Command in south Texas. He would like to hear from Brothers and you can write him at his email address awerdehoff@live.com.

Brother John Sawyer, a member since May 12th is already doing good work for the Order. John discovered an abandoned graveyard in Elmwood Township (Leelanau County) and among the weeds he found a headstone with a GAR flag holder. The grave belongs to Pvt. John Thacker of the 169th Pennsylvania Infantry. Brother Sawyer visited nearby homes to learn more about the cemetery's origins. While one neighbor mowed the weeds and placed a flag in the GAR holder each Memorial Day nobody had any knowledge of the site. Brother Sawyer found 5 additional graves while getting a local tree service to remove fallen limbs and other debris. With the site cleaned up, Brother Sawyer set a stone base to secure Pvt. Thacker's headstone and GAR marker.



Private Thacker grave (before)



Brother Sawyer with restored stone and GAR marker

On June 24th Brothers Ribby and Bryant portrayed soldiers from the Grand Traverse region during "Log Cabin Days" at the Old Mission Point Lighthouse. Brother John Dyle and wife Julie have been equally busy this spring. Their production, entitled; "American History as Seen Through the Eye of the Needle" features 36 hand-made, reproduction Civil War quilts. Each quilt has a description of when it was made, what the panels symbolize and other information. John and Julie have given presentations to the Oscoda Quilt Guild and Cheboygan Public Library; appearing in period clothing, giving lectures and playing popular Civil War era music on hammer dulcimers.

Brother Dan Bennett (and Vice Chairman of Mancelona's Chain O' Lakes Sportsman Club) hosted a "Drill, Picnic and Shoot In" on July 18th. Drillmaster Skillman led CC Goodrich, PCC Aurand, SVC Bryant, GRO Jenkins and WMO Jerry Grieve with Brothers Anthony Bonecutter, Jim Morse Jr., John Sawyer, and prospective Brother, Ben Farrier, through the 'School of the Soldier'. 'Chef' Jenkins grilled burgers and other delicacies for lunch. Once 'Supper Call' sounded the boys made short work of the food. The afternoon was devoted to Manual of Arms, to prepare Brothers for Honor Guard duties. Finally, the boys had fun to if they could become sharpshooters by firing a collection of muzzle and breechloading rifles. 'Dead Eye' Aurand 'made the string' by hitting the 8 inch circle at 100 yards, while the rest of the boys filled the backstop with 'line shots'. Brother Bryant presented Dale with a freshly brewed bottle of ale that was enjoyed by the attendees. The tasty brew was promptly named "Dead Eye Ale".

Continued on Page 19

Continued on Page 18



Sharpshooters Grieve, Bryant, Bennett, Morse Jr., & Aurand



Dale loads a Spencer repeater, similar to one used by his g-g-grandfather

Camp 14 participated in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Park's Port Onieda Fair over August 10 & 11. The Brothers performed a GAR ceremony to honor community veterans buried in the Kelderhouse Cemetery. Park officials report this year's Fair was the most successful yet.



Breaugh, Gray, Sue Klinger, Lantzer, Grieve, Deb Downey, Jenkins, Bryant, Smith & Farrier



SVC Bryant chats with a visitor about the SUVCW

Following the ceremony, a young woman approached Skip Bryant to tell him about an abandoned cemetery near her home on Glen Lake. She had visited a lonely veteran's grave deep in the woods but only knew it belonged to a "U.S. Surgeon". GRO Jenkins is investigating this new discovery.

On August 18th Camp 14 Brothers converged on the little town of Vanderbilt, Michigan to complete the work started by Brothers Jeffery Smith (of Gen. Hartranft Camp # 15 of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania) and Tom Jenkins. Earlier this year, Brother Smith discovered his ancestor, Martin J. Sehl (a member of Battery A, 1st Michigan Light Artillery) buried in an unmarked grave. With GRO Jenkins' assistance, a headstone finally marked Comrade Sehl's final resting place. Joining the fourteen Brothers were Brother Smith's wife and daughter, Emily Breaugh, Judy Jenkins, Lisa Smith and Deb Downey. Dept. Commander Paul Arnold and DSVC Paul Williams also made the long trip north to join 140 Sehl descendents to witness the GAR grave dedication and family reunion. Brothers received many compliments for their performance and the fine tribute to their ancestor.

Continued on Page 20

Continued from Page 19



Sehl descendants to witness the GAR grave dedication and family reunion



DC Paul Arnold signs the Sehl family reunion banner



Brother Jeff Smith chats with Don Gray while waiting for lunch

Roscommon resident and Camp 427 Brother Bill Hanssik attended the event dressed in Confederate gray. He had a fine time and is interested transferring to his new 'local' Camp 14. .

Brothers Aurand and Jenkins attended the Jackson Cascades Civil War Muster over August 25-26; while CC Goodrich supervised his artillery battery during the 'battles'. Bugler Mark Heath, Chaplain Charles Buckhan, and Brothers joined members of the Great Lakes Battalion reenactors to participate in a memorial service for Co. 'B' 2nd U. S. Sharpshooter and Vietnam veteran, Terry Peiffer. Family and members of the Sharpshooters all expressed their gratitude for the outstanding job the SUVCW did to honor Terry's memory.

Editor's Note: Why Michigan's Messenger is now distributed electronically:

In 2005 the Department was faced with rising printing and mailing costs for the nationally recognized Michigan's Messenger. Very few options were available to Department Officers, so the issue was put on the floor at the Department Encampment. The Members voted to publish Michigan's Messenger in an electronic format, with each edition being forwarded to one person in each Camp (thereafter called a Camp Signals Officer), who would then distribute the newsletter to Camp Members.

As a result of this action by the Membership, dues have not been raised.

I believe that the Camps have the responsibility to report changes, so that we can continue to serve you, you must provide me with a current contact for electronic mailing.

I have tried to include every article that was sent to me prior to publication, so that all future issues will be timely. I welcome all constructive suggestions, and encourage all of you to submit relative news about your committees, your Camps, and your ancestors. This is your newsletter, and its success depends on you. Rick Danes, Editor mimessrd@aol.com.

U.S. Grant Camp 67 Submitted by Paul Davis, SVC

U. S. Grant Camp Hosts Sgt. Michael Winkler's Descendents

Jim Petrimoulx, GRO for U. S. Grant Camp 67, based on a request from a family member, located the grave site of Sgt. Michael Winkler 29th Michigan Infantry, Company B. A new head stone was required to mark the grave site. Through the efforts of Brother Petrimoulx, a new stone was obtained and placed.

Several family members traveled from as far away as Florida to attend the Headstone Rededication Ceremony performed by U.S. Grant Camp at the Green Ridge Cemetery in Bay City. The service was well attended by approximately 50 family members as well as several spectators and members of Crapo Camp 145 who helped support the event. The event also received both print news media coverage as well as television coverage.

Many of the descendants brought memorabilia, photos and other artifacts to share with fellow descendents of Michael Winkler. Also in attendance were non-descendant individuals who's ancestors had also served in the 29th Michigan Infantry.



In an effort to bolster attendance and participation, Grant Camp hosted a movie night, complete with popcorn, during which the movie *Horse Soldiers* was screened. In July, Grant Camp also hosted a cookout picnic for its members. Grant Camp continues to explore opportunities to generate more attendance.

Grant Camp members attended two educational venues, both in Frankenmuth, Michigan. The first was a living history time line event which featured a sizable Civil War encampment.

The second venue was the Pioneer Summer Program, an educational opportunity for youngsters to learn about many historical topics including the Civil War. Grant Camp members set up displays and provided several hands-on activities for the students.



March to the Sea Camp # 135

By Chuck Worley, PDC

On June ninth the final resting place of St. Joseph County's last Civil War veteran was commemorated with a bronze plaque mounted at the graveside of Corporal Wesley West at Lakeside Cemetery in Colon Township. March to the Sea Camp #135 dedicated the plaque to his honor in a ceremony attended by almost forty of Corporal West's direct descendents as well as representatives of the Colon American Legion and many interested residents of the county.

Both the County's State Senator Bruce Caswell and Representative Matt Lori were in attendance and favored the audience with their thoughts on the occasion. Corporal West's great granddaughter Mary Decker presented a floral gift at his graveside and shared some of her remembrances of him. Following the ceremony the descendents gathered for a group photograph.

Wesley West was born on May 28, 1848 in Fawn River Township the son of Mr. & Mrs. Joshua West. On November 6, 1863 at the age of 15 Wesley joined Company C the 12th Indiana Cavalry as a private. During his service he was under hostile fire 18 times and was wounded in the hip at the Battle of Nashville. Wesley was discharged with the rank of corporal on December 24, 1865 and returned to St. Joseph County eventually settling in Colon. He worked for a time for the Michigan Central Railroad and was a mason by trade. His two wives and four of his six children preceded him in death. He was active in his community, church and was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. Wesley died August 6, 1942 at the age of 94 and was St. Joseph County's Last Soldier of the Civil War.

Photo credits to Bruce Snook, River Country Journal



Say the Pledge

The next time you see a Michigan Flag think about this pledge, written by Harold G. Coburn, adopted by the state in 1972;

“I pledge allegiance to the flag of Michigan, and to the state for which it stands, two beautiful peninsulas united by a bridge of steel, where equal opportunity and justice to all is our ideal.”

Henry F. Wallace Camp 160

By Jerry Jacobs, Camp Secretary

DEDICATION -- The SUVCW Henry F. Wallace Camp 160 was well represented at the Deloss M. Haviland Memorial Stone Dedication held, June 23, 2012 near Gregory, Mich. Gathered here (from left): Camp 160 Chaplain and SUVCW Department of Michigan Patriotic Instructor Gary Granger; SUVCW Department of Michigan Jr. Vice-Commander Dale Aurand; ASUVCW Department of Michigan PDP Linda Kronberg; Treasurer of the DUVCW Juliet E. Stevens Tent 14 and PDP Nancy Newman; SUVCW Past National Treasurer and Camp 160 Senior Vice-Commander Max Newman. All attended the dedication that was held at Wright Cemetery. The Guilluly-Kingsley Camp 120 of Howell and the Austin Blair Camp 7 of Jackson conducted the ceremony.

Chaplain Jerry Tatar of Camp 120 gave the invocation and conducted the dedication ceremony with Bill Lowe PCC of Austin Blair Camp 7 and Camp 120 Commander William Dixon, among others. The Honor Guard was composed of re-enactors of the 4th Michigan Infantry Company A

commanded by Captain Russ Paul. Flag Guard

members were: Ken Joslin, Bill Dixon and Dan

Eldridge of Camp 120 and Dave speer of Camp 180 and Mike Maillard and Lloyd Howard of Camp 7.

George Wilkinson, historian, spoke about the 4th Michigan. Linda Glaza-Herrington spoke on behalf of the Haviland

family. Alex Noshish of the Boy Scouts of America Troop 477 of Dexter played Taps.

Various re-enactors and other members of the Allied Orders were also in attendance. (ASUVCW Courtesy Photo/Helen

A. Granger)



Sgt. John S. Cosby Camp 427

By Jerry Jacobs, Camp Secretary



Camp 427 has been active the past quarter, attending the St. John's Founder's Day service, a Flag Day Ceremony, holding a Camp picnic, and as shown above, awarding an Eagle Scout Commendation to a scout in Wyandotte, and holding two headstone dedications. As shown above, part of the national family reunion crowd at Sgt. Dewitt Clinton Spaulding's ceremony at Woodmere.

We Have Been Here Before

By Bruce B. Butgereit and Helen A. Granger

This quarter I received two very well written articles about the headstone of Pvt. Thomas Ryan, Battery 13, Virginia Light Artillery, CSA. Instead of publishing two redundant versions, I have taken the liberty of combining the two and crediting both with the effort. The only credit indicated for the photos is Helen A. Granger. ED

On August 30, 2003, as Commander of the Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, I had the honor of participating in a ceremony in which the State of Michigan returned a plundered Confederate First National flag to the City of Fredericksburg. It was while preparing the words I was going to offer, I had learned that as early as 1905, just forty years after the War, the United States War Department had previously returned captured Confederate flags to the South and so our gesture was not something new. My opening line was, "We have been here before."

It was just a few months later that I conducted a ceremony to rededicate the newly restored Kent County (MI) Civil War Monument. Just as Confederate veterans had attended the original dedication ceremonies in 1885, we too had Confederate reenactors participate in our ceremony.

May 29 and 30, 2004 found members of the Department of Michigan, SUVCW and the Michigan Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, as well as other Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic, in Andersonville (GA) to rededicate the restored Michigan Monument at the National Park. For those two days, we were the guests of the Alexander H. Stephens Camp 78, Sons of Confederate Veterans. After marching in the Andersonville Memorial Day parade, our Brothers in Gray treated us to a fine lunch. The next day they were present and under their colors to help rededicate the monument. Again, these events mirrored those from one hundred years earlier when the GAR dedicated the monument with Confederate veterans present.

History, and even current events, reminds us that rarely is there complete support and agreement for anything. Historical research points out that following the war, a great majority (not all) of veterans from both sides were able to look each other in the eye as citizens of the United States and not necessarily former combatants. One of, if not the first act of reconciliation and respect, was rendered when U.S. Major General Joshua Chamberlain ordered his men to "Present, Arms" to the surrendering troops of C.S.A. General John B. Gordon. Major events such as the 25th, 50th, and 75th anniversary reunion of the Blue and Gray at Gettysburg went a long way towards national reconciliation. Former Confederate General Joe Wheeler was a hero in the U.S. Cavalry in the Span-Am War and memorialized in poems titled, *Wheeler's Brigade at Santiago* and *Wheeler at Santiago* which recognized he had been once been a Southern soldier but was serving now in the United States Army. Other reconciliation events occurred in individual states or local communities, such as the 1904 creation of *The North Arkansas United Veterans Association of the Blue and Gray*, where they had to learn to live together in spite of previous differences.

An attempt in 1887 by President Grover Cleveland to return the Confederate flags held by the War Department brought forth an outcry from the Grand Army of the Republic that included threats on the President's life. On the other side, former Confederate General Fitzhugh Lee commented that the flags could stay in the hands of the victors. In 1905, President Theodore Roosevelt, acting in unison of both houses of government, did pass a law that returned the flags held by the War Department. At the 119th annual National Encampment of the SUVCW in 2000, a resolution was passed in support of the Confederate battle flag.

It has not always been easy to share the true history of the Civil War, both North and South to a general public that knows little of the events of the past twenty years let alone those from 150 years ago. When the movie "Gods and General" was released in 2003, a theatre in Grand Rapids (MI) painted a large three-story U.S. flag on its windows beside a Confederate flag of the same size. Within days protests against the Southern flag caused the theatre to scrape the flag off the windows. To the theatres credit, they also removed the U.S. flag (to the protests of the same people protesting against the Confederate flag). The thought was since both flags were historical; you couldn't have one without the other – a fact the protestors never considered.

Continued on Page 25

Continued from Page 24

Fast forward to April 2012, when the General John A. Logan Camp No. 1, SUVCW was asked by the Michigan-based Thomas Ryan Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy to provide a color guard at a ceremony to honor Private Thomas Ryan, Virginia Light Artillery, Company A, 13th Battalion, CSA, serving in 23 battles. Although the question of political correctness was brought up, our initial concern was not whether we should participate but what negative comments or actions might surface as a result of our involvement.

Our discussion again referenced the fact that we've been here before and the Camp voted unanimously to support this event with our Camp colors. We believed that if our ancestors who wore the Blue and/or were members of the GAR could shake hands with their former foes; we should commemorate the service of a Confederate soldier. An invitation to participate was then delivered to and accepted by the Department of Michigan, SUVCW as well as the Michigan Commandery of the MOLLUS. The timing of this request for Blue to honor Gray was almost as if planned because the leadership of the National MOLLUS had just met a week earlier in Shiloh (TN) with the leadership of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars (MOSB) to discuss such opportunities.

"The Confederate Iron Cross Grave Marker was patterned after the design of the Southern Cross of Honor medal bestowed on Confederate soldiers by the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC), said Ms. Brenda Kociemba, President, Thomas Ryan 2689, UDC. The day of the Southern Cross of Honor presentation, Sunday, June 10, 2012 proved to be a beautiful day and in spite of the warm temperatures, about one-hundred people gathered in the Easton Cemetery (Owosso, MI) to honor soldier Ryan. There were a number of descendants of soldier Ryan in attendance. His final resting place is just a few hundred yards from the Easton Church of Christ he used to attend. The colorful dresses and hats of the ladies from the Ryan UDC Chapter blended perfectly with the Union blue uniforms of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (Camp 1 of Grand Rapids; Camp 7 of Jackson; Camp 17 of Sunfield; Camp 160 of Corunna; and Department Commander Paul Arnold) as well as the Military Order of the Loyal Legion (Michigan Commandery). Several representatives of the Woman's Relief Corps (Grand Rapids) and the Auxillary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (Owosso) were also in attendance. A nice breeze kept the unit and national colors waving proudly.

The ceremony conducted by Ms. Kociemba, included the Pledge of Allegiance, several songs, remarks about Memorial Day, the presentation of floral tributes, a military salute and the placing of the Confederate Iron Cross at Ryan's grave. It was the first memorial service conducted by the Ryan Chapter. Joining the procedures were several National, Department, and Camp officers and members, as well as Women's Relief Corps (WRC) National President Marcia Butgereit, and members of WRC Champlin Corps 41 of Grand Rapids, Helen Granger, a State officer of the Auxillary to the SUVCW (ASUVCW), Members of UDC Tent 14, and Civil War reenactors including the 7th Texas Infantry.

As Commander of the Michigan Commandery of the Loyal Legion, I presented greetings on behalf of Mr. Max Waldrop, Jr., Commander General of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars (CSA). Mr Waldrop is also a member of the Michigan Commandery of the Loyal Legion. Some of his words were as follows:

...It is with great respect that I salute the Thomas Ryan Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy as they conduct the memorial service for their namesake, Thomas Ryan, a veteran soldier who served with distinction in the Virginia Light Artillery, Company A, 13th Battalion. There is no greater action that we can do than to take time to remember him and all of our veterans who sacrificed so much for their country.

It is with great respect that I also extend my personal greetings and those of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars to the men of the Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War who with careful consideration and deliberation committed to supporting the ladies of the United Daughters of the Confederacy in their request for a Color Guard for today's ceremony.

I am humbled by the cooperative actions of all three heritage organizations present today. If you will permit me to add by proxy the MOS&B, then there are, in fact, four [six with WRC and ASUVCW] heritage organizations gathered on this Sunday to pay our respects to Thomas Ryan and to his descendants who have also chosen to stand here to be counted among those who honor him.

If at any time in the future, the Military Order of the Stars and Bars can be of service to the UDC, the SUVCW, and MOLLUS it will be our honor to fulfill the request and meet the commitment forged by today's participants in remembrance of this soldier and his community service...

Continued on Page 26

Continued from Page 25

It wasn't always easy to forgive and forget in the years following the Civil War and even today; emotions run deep and causes us to ask the question, "What would our ancestors think of our actions today?" While we will probably never know the answer, nor could we ever attempt to understand what Blue and Gray felt; we can take pride in knowing we did what we believed right.



Ms. Brenda Kociemba President, Thomas Ryan Chapter # 2689, United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC).



Color Guard: Department of Michigan, SUVCW and Michigan Commandery, MOLLUS. Commanded by Keith Harrison (left foreground) PC-in-C for both SUVCW and MOLLUS. L to R: Paul Arnold, DC (Camp 17); Howard Lloyd (Camp 7); Chet Trybus, Comer Skinner, and Bill Truss (Camp 1); and Bruce B. Butgereit (MOLLUS)



The guests



Bruce B. Butgereit: Commander, Michigan Commandery, MOLLUS

Continued on Page 27

Continued from Page 26



**Sister Jeannine Trybus:
Woman's Relief Corps floral tribute**



**Paul "Dave" Arnold: Commander,
Department of Michigan, SUVCW**



**Artillery Salute:
Gary Granger, Max Newman, David Hilliker and
Mike McMillan (Camp 160)**



**The final resting place of Pvt. Thomas Ryan,
CSA**



Ryan Thomas Chapter 2689, United Daughters of the Confederacy; Department of Michigan, SUVCW; ASUVCW; and the Michigan Commandery of the MOLLUS.

14th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Reorganized

by James B. Pahl, PCinC

(The account is based upon and quotes frequently from "Michigan in the War" compiled by J. Robertson, Adjutant General.)

The 14th was organized at Ypsilanti under the direction of Col. Robert P. Sinclair of Grand Rapids. They were mustered in on February 13, 1862 with 925 officers and men. The record does not show where the various companies were raised. The ladies of Ypsilanti presented a flag to the regiment a short time before they left the state. On one side was a figure of Justice, by its side an eagle holding an American flag in its beak, the folds were gracefully thrown around the figure. On a scroll was written in gold letters: "We came not to war on opinions, but to suppress treason".

The 14th did not leave Michigan until the 17th of April, having been detained in Michigan on account of delay in payment. It was ordered to the Western Army and joined the army at Pittsburg Landing soon after the engagement at that point.

Assigned to General Pope's army in the advance on Corinth, Mississippi and was engaged in the siege of that place. After the evacuation of Corinth, the regiment moved with Buell's army along the Memphis & Charleston railroad. They were stationed briefly at Tuscumbia, AL and on the 1st of September, joined in the famous race of Buell and Bragg for Louisville, KY. The regiment was halted at Nashville to aid in holding that important point.

In October, the regiment was assigned to 1st Brigade, 2nd Division (Jeff C. Davis's), 14th corps, which is served during the remainder of the war.

On November 1, the regiment participated in an engagement at Lavergne, capturing a fort and routing the 32nd Alabama Infantry, taking 100 prisoners. The regiment participated in other engagements around Nashville and participated in the battle at Stone River, Tennessee.

The regiment remained in the Nashville – Franklin area through much of 1863. On September 6, 1863, the regiment was ordered to be mounted. Eight companies were sent to Columbia, provided with Spencer rifles, revolvers and complete cavalry equipments, along with a section of light artillery. The regiment was then employed in garrison for posts at Franklin and Columbia, Tennessee.

January 4, 1864, the regiment became a veteran regiment, 414 having reenlisted. Companies C, F, G, I and K started for Michigan where they received the usual veteran furlough. At the expiration they proceeded to the front and the remaining companies started for Michigan and their furlough.

Upon their return, they were not re-mounted, which caused much dissatisfaction within the regiment, but they continued to serve faithfully and gallantly until the close of the war.

Failing in being remounted, the regiment was order to Bridgeport and then by forced marches of Dallas, Georgia, joining the army under General Sherman, engaged at Kenesaw Mountain on June 15 and again at the Chattahoochee River on July 5 & 6, taking several prisoners.

Participating in the flank movement around Atlanta, the regiment charged and carried a line of rebel works at Jonesboro, capturing four pieces of artillery and caissons, a confederate general with staff and the colors of the 1st Arkansas with 300 men.

November 1, 1864, the regiment broke camp and commenced the grand march with Sherman to Savannah, destroying many miles of railroad, reaching Savannah on the 16th, where the enemy evacuated the place on the 20th. The 14th remained near Savannah until January 20, 1865, when it moved with the army through the Carolinas.

The services of the regiment during the Atlanta and Savannah campaigns was so conspicuous as to attract the notice of the corps commander, General Davis, in a letter addressed to the Secretary of War on December 5, 1865, he stated:

Continued on Page 29

Continued from Page 28

Whilst the government is conferring honors upon those who have distinguished themselves in the field, I hope it is not yet too late to ask attention of the Department to merits and service of Col. Henry R. Mizner of the 14th Michigan Veteran Infantry (Captain 18th U.S. Infantry), who, up to the present time, seems to have been overlooked.

In his behalf, as an officer deserving promotion, permit me to make the following report of his services while under my command:

Col. Mizner and regiment joined my command early in the campaign against Atlanta and served with distinction to its close. This regiment was one of the best of the corps under my command and on every occasion, where the enemy was met, invariably signalized its courage and discipline. In the assault of the corps on the enemy's works at Jonesboro, which resulted in the fall of Atlanta, the colors of this regiment were among the first carried over the works.

Col. Mizner had been long in command of his regiment and beyond question, much was due his exertion and skill in promoting that excellent discipline and spirit of gallantry for which his regiment was conspicuous throughout the war.

Col. Mizner's personal bearing on the field was no less conspicuous than that of his regiment. I take great pleasure in recommending this officer's claims for promotion by Brevet, to the Department.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant, JEFF C. DAVIS, Brevet Major General.

The enrollment of the regiment was 1, 806, while losses were 247, being one officer and 16 men died of wounds, 32 men killed in action, three officers and 195 men died of disease.

**“Marked on the roll of blood what names
To Columbia's memory, and to fame's”**

DID YOU KNOW?

President Lincoln signed the Homestead Act on May 20, 1862. It was "an act to secure homesteads to actual settlers on the public domain," and increased westward expansion through settlement of surveyed government lands in thirty states.

The law allowed a homesteader to receive up to 160 acres by applying for a claim, improving the land, and filing for a land patent after successfully living on the land for five years. Fold3 has been digitizing the homestead records for Nebraska. The files, from the Records of the Bureau of Land Management, consist of final certificates, applications with land descriptions, affidavits showing proof of citizenship, register and receiver receipts, notices and final proofs, and testimonies of witnesses. They sometimes contain unique records for a person or family, used to verify their right to make the claim.

More details and some intriguing examples are on the Homestead Records description page. The 1862 Homestead Act had been debated, proposed, and defeated for over ten years, stalled by the issue of slavery. After eleven states left the Union and a civil war erupted on American soil, the act finally passed. Applications were filed beginning on January 1, 1863.

Daniel Freeman, a Union soldier, filed the first claim at the Brownsville, Nebraska, land office on that day. In January 1868, he proved his claim. His file includes a statement by neighbors **Joseph Graff** and **Samuel Kilpatrick** that Daniel had lived on the land for five years with his wife and two children, and "built a stable, a sheep shed 100 feet long, corn crib, and has 40 apple and about 400 peach trees set out." He paid \$12 for his 160-acre tract of land, or about \$226 in today's dollars.

To learn more about events surrounding the anniversary of the Homestead Act, visit the National Park Service website.



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